

conditions for the distribution of agricultural inputs. The security situation is reported to be relatively clam. Over 47,000 ex-combatants, including hundreds of child soldiers, have handed in their weapons, and on 18 January the President declared the end of the disarmament process. However, Sierra Leone will continue to depend on international food assistance for some time until full recovery in food production can be realized.

In Guinea, the overall food supply situation is favourable following satisfactory harvests in 2000 and 2001. Aggregate 2001 cereal production is officially estimated at 1,026,000 tonnes, slightly lower than in the previous year but above average. Markets are well supplied, except in the south-east where recurrent rebel incursions from Sierra Leone continue to disrupt agricultural activities. The presence of a large refugee population and the persistent instability in neighbouring countries have exacted a heavy toll on the country. Armed clashes in and around the country have resulted in increasing numbers of internally displaced people. A UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal was launched on 26 November 2001 to assist the country cope with the serious humanitarian situation.

Elsewhere in western Africa, the food supply situation is satisfactory, notwithstanding localized food deficits, such as in northern Ghana.

#### UPDATE ON FOOD AID PLEDGES AND DELIVERIES

With improved cereal harvests in parts, cereal import requirements in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2001/02 are expected to be lower than last year but still remain high. This reflects mainly the anticipated poor crop in southern Africa in 2002 coupled with last year's significantly reduced crop. GIEWS latest estimates of 2001 cereal production and 2001/02 import and food aid requirements are summarized in Table 1. Total food aid requirement is estimated at 1.7 million tonnes, about some 36 percent less than in 2000/01. Cereal food aid pledges for 2001/02, including those carried over from 2000/01, amount to 0.9 million tonnes of which 0.8 million tonnes have so far been delivered.

#### AREAS OF PRIORITY ACTION

The serious food supply situation in several countries of southern Africa gives cause for serious concern. Food production is anticipated to decline for the second consecutive year, mainly due to adverse weather. In eastern Africa, despite improved food supply prospects, the effects of recent severe droughts, coupled with conflicts in parts, are still being felt, with nearly 11 million people in need of food assistance. Furthermore, civil strife continues to disrupt food production in Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan, necessitating good assistance for the affected populations.

Against this background, the attention of the international community is drawn to the following priority areas requiring action:

First, high priority should be given to food assistance for southern African countries facing a looming food crisis, particularly Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, but also Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Second, continued food assistance is needed for populations in several countries of Sub-Saharan Africa affected by conflict and adverse weather, including Angola, Burundi, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan.

Third, donors are urged to give priority to local purchases and triangular transactions wherever possible for their food aid programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to support domestic food production.

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#### NATIONAL DNA DATABASE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time that I have to address a very important matter. It can be classified similar to a movie that got the attention of many Americans some years ago called *Network*. One of the principal actors took to a tall building and raised its window and shouted, "I can't take it anymore." For some reason, that struck a chord in America. Whatever that issue was, it may not have been what the movie was discussing, but it raised the level of one's ability to protest: "I can't take it anymore."

Mr. Speaker, I cannot take the murderous acts that are being perpetrated on our children, one after another. Some, of course, we do not know their end and we hope that our prayers will bring them home. But we realize that we have a crisis of sorts. Even though we can find evidence that the numbers of missing children, exploited children may be going down, one child is one too many. I share with my colleagues just a picture of a loving mother and her baby. It could be a loving father, a loving grandmother, a loving grandfather, but it shows the vulnerability of a child.

We have in this country become maybe jaded. One child after another, Samantha Runnion being the last, most vicious and violent exhibition of the lowest grade of individual, a 5-year-old playing with her friend in front of her house being snatched away, snatched away screaming and kicking and pleading for her life. Then, to find this child's nude body only a day later, knowing that she had been sexually assaulted and strangled. I cannot take it anymore, and none of us in this Congress and none of us in this land should take this abuse of our children.

Elizabeth Smart, Laura Ayala in my own community, a 13-year-old just trying to get a newspaper for her homework, maybe less than 50 feet away from a store and being snatched away, newspaper scattered, sandals left in place, no sign of her. Mother grieving, family grieving; the vulnerability of our children. Danielle Van Dam, Rilya Wilson, 5 years old, missing for a year before the children's protective services in Florida even wanted to say anything. Danielle Van Dam's trial going on now with all kinds of circus defenses by the defendant. They have every right to have their day in court.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis, I believe. In a 1999 report authored about children as victims, it states, "Although the U.S. violent crime rate has been decreasing since 1994, homicide remains a leading cause of death for young people. Juveniles are twice as likely as adults to be victims of serious

violent crimes and 3 times as likely to be victims of assault. Many of these victims are quite young. Law enforcement data indicates that 1 in 18 victims of violent crime is under the age of 12. In one-third of the sexual assaults reported to law enforcement, the victim is under the age of 12. In most cases involving serious violent crime, juvenile victims know the perpetrator, who is not the stereotypical stranger, but a family member or acquaintance."

But, there are strangers, because in the case dealing with some of these victims, the perpetrator said, particularly in the Danielle Van Dam case, "I am looking for my dog." Children are vulnerable. They are caring, they are loving.

We must find a way, yes, to penalize those who come before the system, but we also have to express our outrage that anyone with such vial behavior would be accepted by society, and we must provide resources so that these individuals can be caught quickly. It is important to know that the average victim of abduction and exploitation is an 11-year-old girl who meets her abductor within a quarter of a mile from home, like Laura Ayala going to get a newspaper.

Only 22 States sex offender registries collect and maintain DNA samples as part of the registration. Only 22 States have a DNA registry that can be utilized for sex offenders. Research on sex offenders found that over a 4- to 5-year period, 13.4 percent recidivated with another sexual offense, and 12.2 percent recidivated with a nonsexual offense, violent offense, and 36.6 percent recidivated with any other offense. One offense is one too many for me. A long-term follow-up on a study of child molesters in Canada found that 42 percent were reconvicted of a sexual or violent crime during the 15- to 30-year follow-up period.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we do something. This week, I am going to file legislation to instruct the Attorney General to establish a national DNA database only for sex offenders and violent offenders against children. It was noted at the scene where Samantha Runnion lost her life that a lot of DNA evidence was there. I can imagine that this happens in crime scene after crime scene. With only 22 States even bothering to have a collection of DNA data, this legislation is needed, Mr. Speaker.

I am sorry to express this outrage as I close, but it is because of the loving relationship and the love we have for our children that outrage is befitting and we must legislatively do something. The Attorney General must establish this national database of DNA samples to be able to help find these horrible people, these sex offenders who would do harm to our children, now and immediately.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.